

# Celebrate Uxbridge founding

UXBRIDGE - On Nov. 8 at 2 p.m., an historical plaque commemorating the founding of the Town of Uxbridge was unveiled at the Public Library. This plaque is one of a series being erected throughout the province by the Historical and Museums Branch, Archives of Ontario, acting on the advice of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

This ceremony was arranged and sponsored by the Town of Uxbridge. Mrs. Thomas Lennox, Chairman of the Library Board, was program chairman. Others invited to take part were: Ray Newton, Mayor of Uxbridge; Professor Wm. S. Goulding, School of Architecture, University of Toronto, representing the province's Historic Sites Board; and Mr. Wm. H. Gould, a descendant of one of the town's founders. The plaque was unveiled by Dr. Matthew B. Dymond, M.P.P. (Ontario). The Rev. Arthur H. Voteray, Free Methodist Church, Uxbridge, pronounced the prayer of dedication.

The inscription on the plaque reads:  
**THE FOUNDING OF UXBRIDGE**

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## Peewee champions in House League

Ballantrae boys are the reigning champions in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Peewee House League. At a ceremony held earlier this fall, the Tony Rogers Memorial

Trophy was presented to (left to right) Mark Simpson, Rick Sooley and David Kennedy.

—Jim Thomas.

The settlement of this area was stimulated by the arrival about 1806 of approximately twelve Quaker families from Pennsylvania. About 1808 Joseph Collins completed the first saw and grist-mill around which a community developed. The mill was bought in 1832 by Joseph Gould. A post office named Uxbridge was opened in 1836 with Joseph Bascom as Postmaster. In 1844 Gould, industrialist, land owner, and later first member of the Parliament of Canada for Ontario North, erected a large woollen mill. The completion in 1871 of the section of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway between Scarborough and Uxbridge fostered the growth of the community. Incorporated as a village with a population of 1,367 in 1872, Uxbridge became a town in 1885.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**  
The Township of Uxbridge was surveyed during the years 1804-05 by S.S. Wilmot. As early as 1806 an Englishman named Dr. Beswick began construction of rudimentary grist and sawmills at the confluence to two streams. These mills were purchased and completed by Joseph Collins about 1808.

The township received an influx of Quaker settlers between 1805 and 1808 from Pennsylvania. Approximately twelve Quaker families settled in the area centred on Uxbridge. In 1820 a Meeting House was erected at Uxbridge to replace an earlier log structure. This building and its predecessor were the first religious structures in the settlement. The water power available at Uxbridge guaranteed that the settlement would

thrive. As early as 1836 a post office was opened under the name Uxbridge. Joseph Gould, a prominent industrialist in the area, owned a large portion of the village site. In 1844 he built a woollen mill in the village. A tannery had been erected in 1833 by Mr. Joseph Bascom, utilizing the water power of Uxbridge Creek. Saw and grist-mills, flouring and oatmeal mills, multiplied. Uxbridge was one of the first small towns in Ontario to establish a municipal water works system.

Joseph Gould was the first representative of the area in the Province of Canada. He represented Ontario North from its establishment as an electoral district in 1854, until 1861.

By mid-century the Quaker influence in Uxbridge began to

decline as settlers of other denominations and backgrounds entered the area. In 1854 the Church of England constructed its first church in Uxbridge. The arrival of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway further accelerated the growth of Uxbridge. On July 1, 1871, the railway officially opened the 31 miles of narrow gauge track between Scarborough and Uxbridge. Between 1882 and 1884 the narrow gauge track was replaced with standard sized track which allowed the integration of the line into other systems.

In 1872 Uxbridge was incorporated as a village. It had been

made a Police Village ten years earlier. By an Order in Council, dated September 19, 1885, Uxbridge was incorporated as a town.

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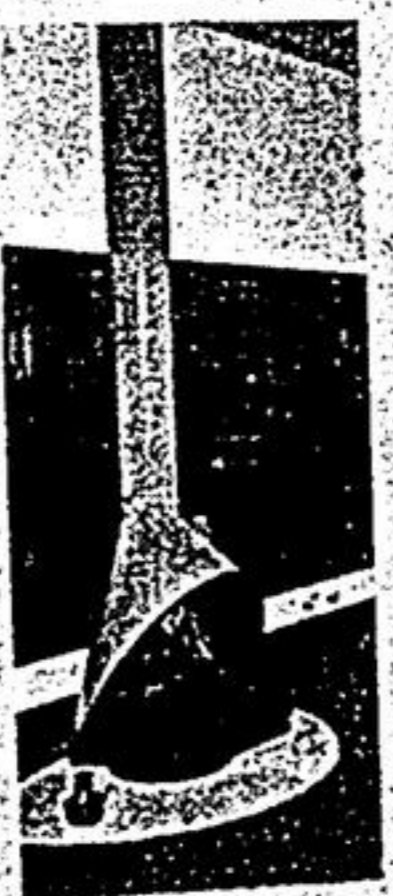
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# Choose industries carefully

VANDORF - Over the last two months citizens of the Vandorf area have been called to meetings to discuss the Solandt Commission's high voltage hydro line and listen to low voltage election speeches of York-Simcoe federal candidates.

Perhaps these electrical and electoral debates took the spark out of Vandorfians for, at the beginning of a public meeting, Nov. 2, to discuss zoning changes, they were slow to warm up.

Gordon Brush, Regional Planning Consultant, explained the zoning proposals to redesignate 39 rural acres on the south-east corner of Don Mills and Aurora Side Roads to industrial - along with 16 acres north from (and including) the old Vandorf school site.

When there was no reaction from the audience, at this point, Jobst Gellert, Vice-president of Mold Masters Ltd., a firm which wishes to locate

on the Aurora Road site, unfolded plans for his factory which manufactures light, bulk plastic components. He said the plant would be built in a 3 1/2 acre park, with swimming pool for employees. He also explained the recycling and water cooling system which would be used. This precipitated questions on less aesthetic features - towers on roof, storage silos, shipping and receiving entrances.

Charles Warden, whose residence is in this redesignated section, objected to the rezoning to the south and commented on anticipated industrial growth. "There are only a certain number of people interested in locating in this area", he said. "I have been here 6 years and they are not coming out of the woodwork".

Discussion moved to the former Vandorf School which had been purchased from York County Board of Education by F.J. Storiman's, a manufacturer who

wished to locate there, and had applied for a spot zoning change. Lawrence Hennessey wanted to know if the purchase of the school had been conditional on an amendment to the zoning bylaw.

Mr. Storiman assured him the deal had been finalized, and added that Council had "warned" him often that the zoning might not go through. He described his plant, which manufactures special tools, as a 8 a.m., to 4.30 p.m., operation - noiseless and smokeless.

A next-door neighbor, with her own idea of priorities, asked, "Would you cut the grass?"

"Definitely", she was assured.

Concern that the general appellation 'industrial' might conjure up visions of smoke stacks and unsightly storage areas, prompted Mayor Ken Laushway to explain that a change in zoning would not mean that any manufacturing plant

would be acceptable. He said there would be rigid controls and restrictions. "Each application that comes in must have a site plan agreement and it must satisfy Council and the people around".

Mrs. Ruth Warden indicated that she had already raised objections to zoning changes at a July 6 meeting and had registered them with the Ontario Municipal Board. "We have been invited here", she added, "but I don't get the feeling we are being listened to except out of courtesy".

Chairman of Whitchurch-Stouffville Planning Committee, Tom Lonergan, disagreed and assured her the O.M.B. would certainly consider the objections, as would the Committee.

The audience was invited to send in comments on the proposed zoning changes, before Nov. 16, for discussion at Planning Committee meeting.

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